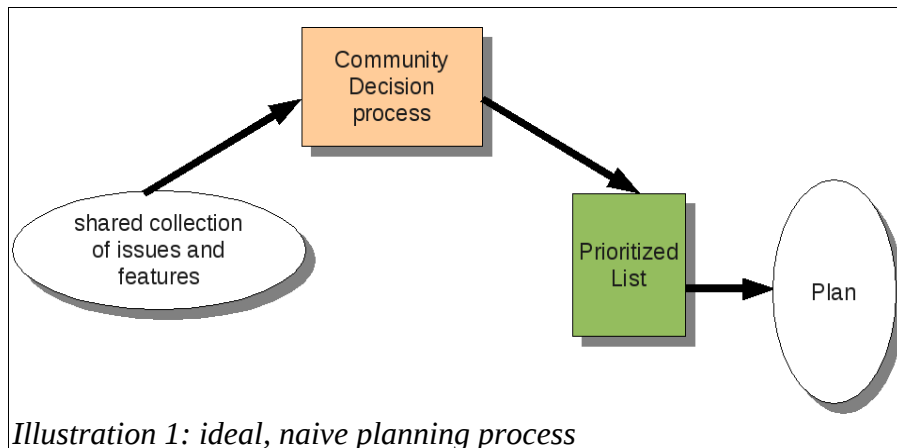


OpenOffice.org Planning (Draft v0.4, July 1st 2009)

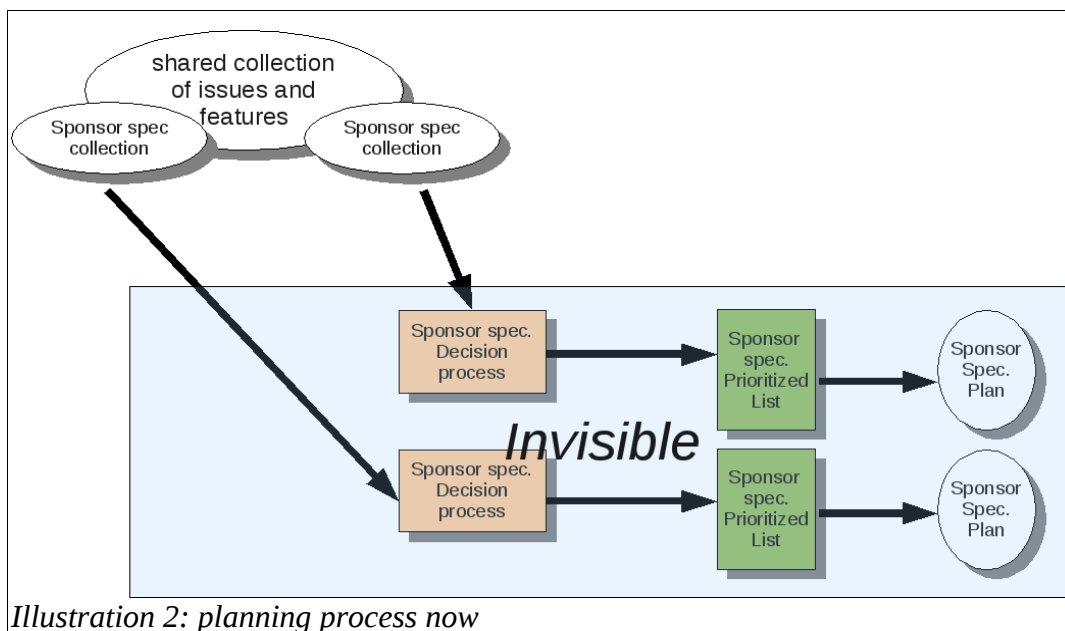
OpenOffice planning session will be done twice a year before the development for the next minor start. The first phase will start in advance of the actual planning session.

Current status

The current status is that OpenOffice.org does not have a public transparent planning process. Or better say planning methodology as the term process may sound too bureaucratic. The ideal, naïve view on this may look like this:



From the endless poll of issues, meaning defects, requests for enhancements and all the other stuff a decision process would deliver a prioritized list of things which have to be done next. From that list a plan for implementation might be developed. The reality is, that there is no such community decision process so the current status looks like this:



The various sponsoring parties of OpenOffice.org are doing all their planning behind the scenes, it may be understandable, that they don't disclose their own priorities and motivation on how and why they are doing things they do.

The problem

The current decision making process is not the transparent as desired. Those who will give input for defects, enhancements or new feature will not know when these issues will get resolved or if there will get resolved at all. There will be a moment of surprise with every new release if a problem got solved or not. The outcome is, that there is no roadmap for the next few years, even not a vague roadmap.

The proposal of the quarterly reviews (<http://qa.openoffice.org/servlets/BrowseList?list=dev&by=thread&from=1977045>) was only of limited success, although the author got lot of feedback that this is the right way to go. The new proposal has now begun to get adopted for Sun internal planning of 3.2 (the results will get published in the wiki soon) so that it will be likely that this proposal will get better success.

The Future

So the next step might be to implement a community driven decision process so that the picture might evolve like this:

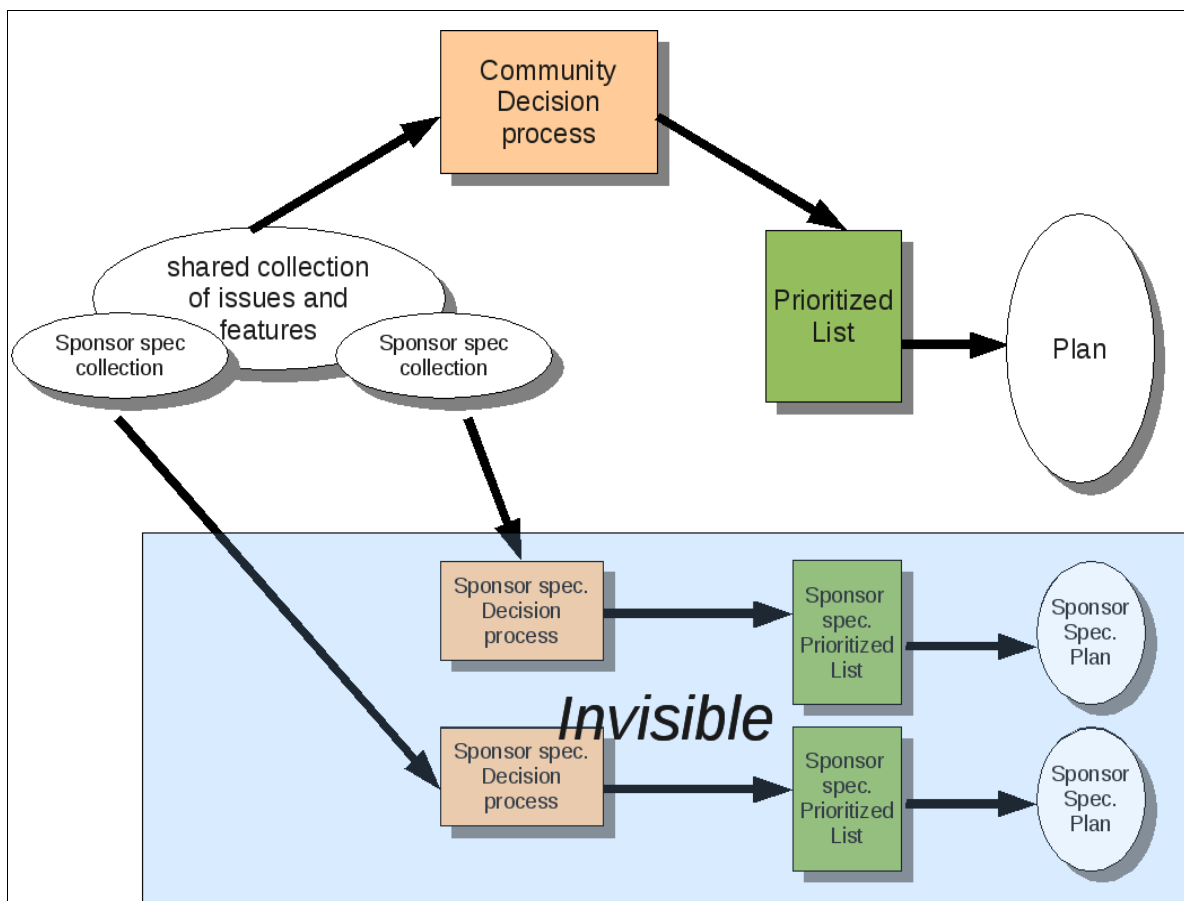


Illustration 3: adding community driven decision process

For sponsoring parties like companies a decision process may look different but should have similar deliveries.

Planning Process

This section describes how planning will be implemented in 5 phases.

Collection - Phase 1

Project teams and contributing members of the project are called to collect tasks for the next release. These can be new features, defects, enhancements, usability issues or development process items reported by any member of the OOo project (e.g. user, QA folks, marketing people, etc.) In case of defects tasks should be already accompanied with an Issue ID, and a justification of why this should be done within the next development cycle.

A more detailed description on how to collect tasks will be developed in the OpenOffice wiki (<http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Planning>)

Review (Sponsors, Iteration 1) – Phase 2

A planning team is collecting the items from phase 1 and make a proposal about a prioritization. This proposal may be reviewed and finally agreed by the sponsoring parties.

Review (Teams, Iteration 1) – Phase 3

If not already available with the data from phase 1 the single teams will do a more detailed effort estimation and confirm / disagree / modify the prioritization from phase 2.

Planning (Sponsors, Iteration 2) – Phase 4

Sponsors will agree upon and commit themselves the plan agreed in phase 3.

Planning (Teams, Iteration 2) – Phase 5

Teams start actual detailed planning and coordinates UX-, Development- and QA efforts. Outcome will be a 6 month schedule.

Implementing the planning process

Starting with this proposal in version v0.1 (8.4.2009) this process will be followed and the results of the various phases will be made available. It is likely that there will be modifications of this process when actually try to perform the process, feedback is appreciated. Time scope of this effort is March 21st until September 21st 2009 (the OOo 3.2 development phase). Driver for the Implementation will be the author of this document.

	<i>Who</i>	<i>Deadline</i>
<i>Phase 1 (3.2)</i>	Dev Teams, all	April 12, 2009
<i>Phase 2 (3.2)</i>	MH, DL, NF, ...	April 20, 2009
<i>Phase 3 (3.2)</i>	MH, Teams	June 25, 2009
<i>Phase 4 (3.2)</i>	MH, DL, NF	06/27/09
<i>Phase 5 (3.2)</i>	MH, Teams	07/30/09
<i>Review of Planning Process</i>	MH, all	07/01/09
<i>Phase 1 (3.3)</i>	All	August 2009

Next Steps

For a complete picture on how to do planning in the future some aspects are still missing:

- work out OpenOffice.org mission statement
(http://wiki.services.openoffice.org/wiki/Mission_Statement)
- determine the strategy to execute our mission, what areas we are focussing on ?
- Introduce personas to get a better understanding of our target audience
- define and agree on release criteria